



# MOUNTAIN LION SAFETY

PRESENTED BY:

CITY OF SAN BRUNO

JOVAN D. GROGAN, *CITY MANAGER*

RYAN JOHANSEN, *CHIEF OF POLICE*

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

TERRIS KASTEEN, *WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST*

## COMMUNITY MEETING

June 21, 2021

# Objective



*Educate to help keep our community safe:* Given the recent increase in mountain lion and other wildlife sightings in the Bay Area, our City team partnered with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to offer this virtual community meeting on what to do if you were to encounter a mountain lion.



# Goals for this Community Meeting

Leave This Presentation With...

1. Education on Mountain Lions
2. How the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Manage Mountain Lions
3. What to do if you Encounter a Mountain Lion
4. How and When to Report

# Agenda



- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Recent Local Incidents
- III. Living with Mountain Lions by California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- IV. What to Do and How to Report
- V. Q & A



# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS



# Welcome and Introductions

## ▲ City of San Bruno Staff

- Jovan D. Grogan, *City Manager*
- Ryan Johansen, *Chief of Police*

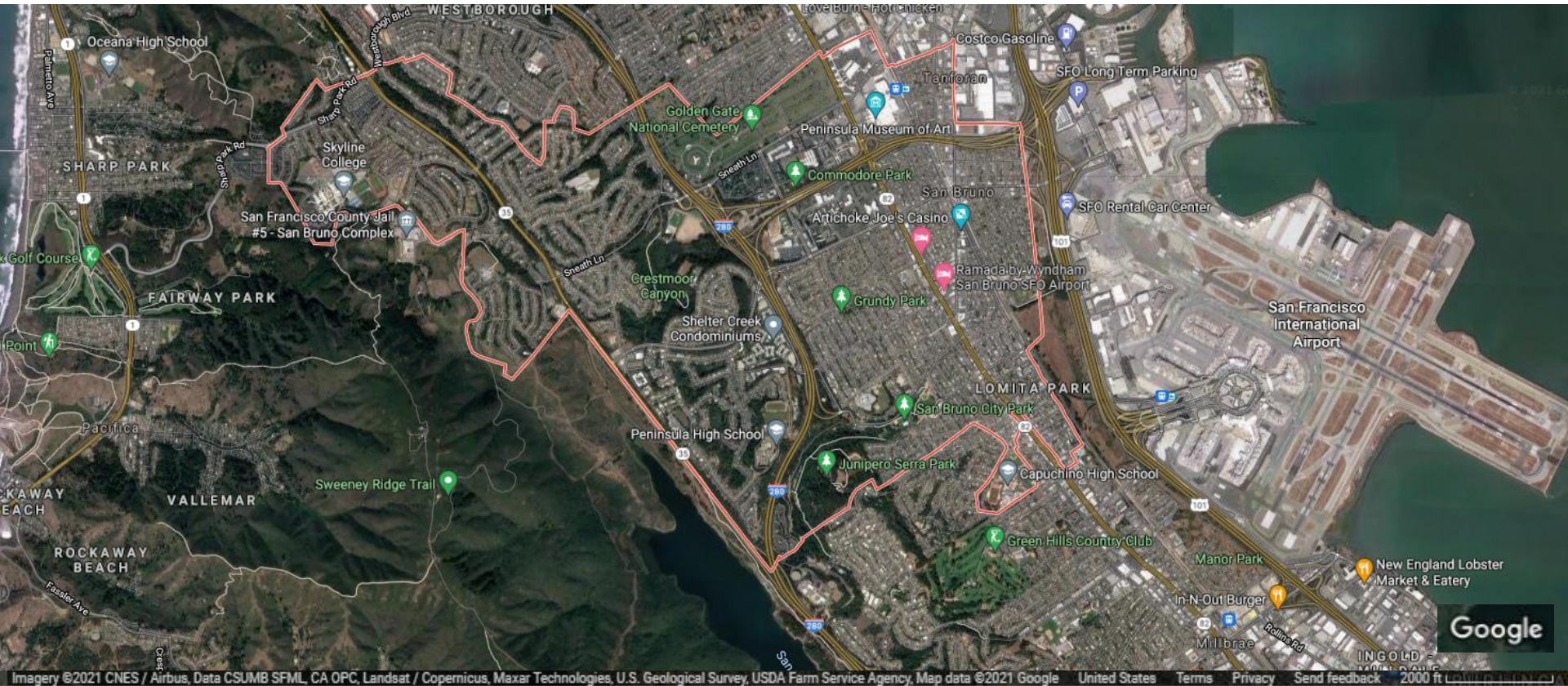
## ▲ California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

- Terris Kasteen, *Wildlife Biologist*
  - Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, San Francisco Counties





# Our Terrain - San Bruno



Map Source: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/San+Bruno,+CA/@37.6211366,-122.4417869,7658m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x808f79e42ea92939:0xda1da4c83960efd2!8m2!3d37.6304904!4d-122.4110835>



# RECENT LOCAL INCIDENTS





# Recent Incidents (Regionally)

- ▲ CDFW has responded to 7 incidents of mountain lions that have moved into urban areas from the adjacent Santa Cruz Mountains over the last year, typically there are 1 or 2
- ▲ Some Sightings Captured on Home Surveillance Cameras
  - ring

# Recent Incidents (Regionally)





# May 25, 2021 Incident

Full Press Release: <https://public.powerdms.com/SanBrunoPD/documents/2158637>

- ▲ Press Release Issued on May 25, 2021
- ▲ Mountain Lion Entered Residence in San Bruno
  - Broke Glass Through Exterior Glass Window
  - Believed that the Mountain Lion Entered Residence Because of Large Game, Taxidermy Trophy Heads Mounted on the Interior Walls of Residence
  - Scared Off by Homeowner
- ▲ Mountain Lion Not Located
- ▲ No Injuries as a Result of this Incident



# LIVING WITH MOUNTAIN LIONS



# ***LIVING WITH MOUNTAIN LIONS***

California Department of Fish  
and Wildlife (CDFW)

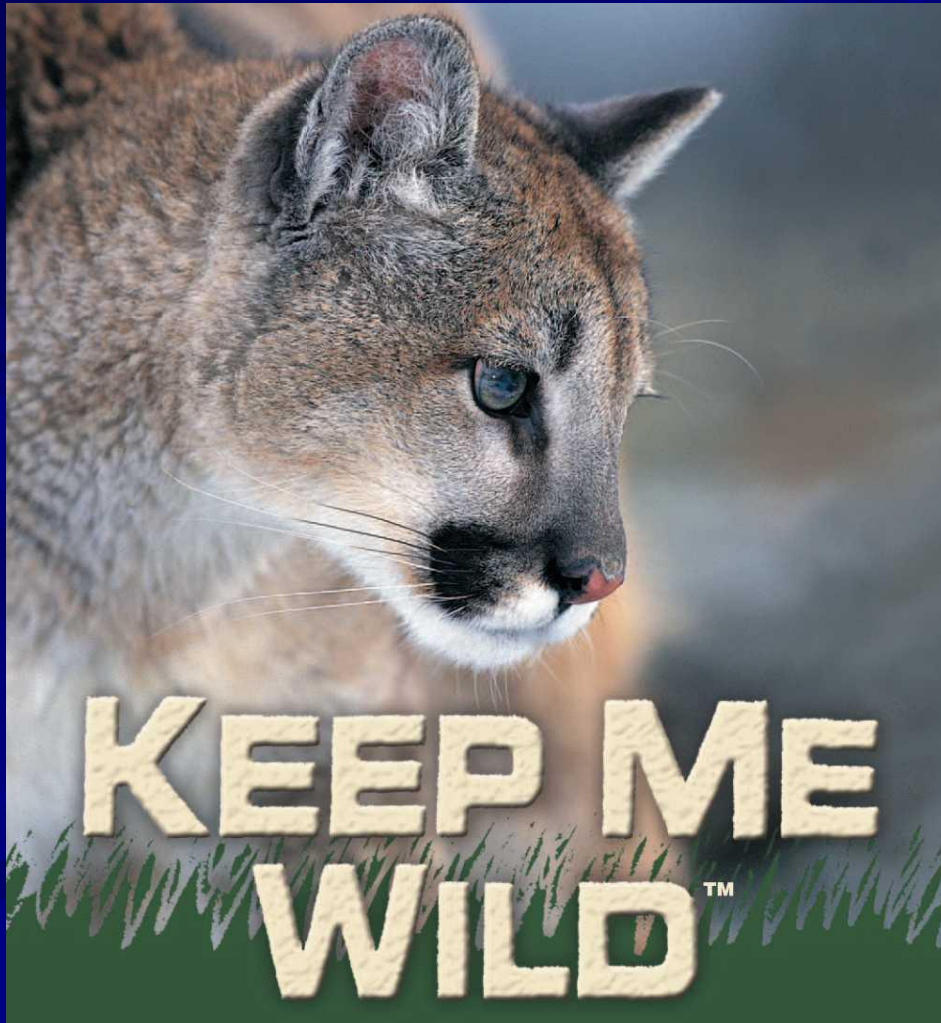


# Terris Kasteen

- Wildlife Biologist with 25 years experience
- 13 years with CDFW
- Area covered includes Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and San Francisco Counties
- Manage ~10,000 acres on 15 unstaffed Ecological Reserves
- Depredation Permits
- Conflict Wildlife Calls
- Animal Welfare
- Land Acquisition
- Big Game Management



[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)





# Identification

- Tawny-colored
- Long tail
- Black-tipped ears and tail
- Males
  - up to 8 feet long from nose to tail
  - 120-150 lbs
- Females
  - up to 7 feet long from nose to tail
  - 65-90 lbs
- Kittens
  - covered with blackish-brown spots
  - Blue eyes
  - Dark rings around their LONG tails.





Image: Bobcat 12-40 pounds



Image: Coyote, approximately 20-35 pounds





Image: House cat, approximately 8-10 pounds



Image: Feral cat





Image: Mountain Lion, estimated at 120 pounds

# Home Range

## ■ UCSC Puma Collaring Project found:

- Male mean home range was 60 square miles (38,000 acres)
- Female mean home range was 22 square miles (14,000 acres)
  - For reference San Francisco is 47 square miles
- ❖ 3-4 female territories will overlap an entire male territory
- ❖ Territory size/density limited by either prey availability or territorial exclusion
- ❖ Where there are deer there are mountain lions



# Diet

## ■ UCSC Puma Project found:

- Deer most common prey item (77% of kills)
- Other wildlife taken as prey:
  - raccoon (8%), wild pig (3%), opossum (3%)
  - skunk, beaver, bobcat, coyote and turkey
- Domestic/non-wildlife prey items:
  - Cat (5%), chicken, cow, goat, sheep



# Status

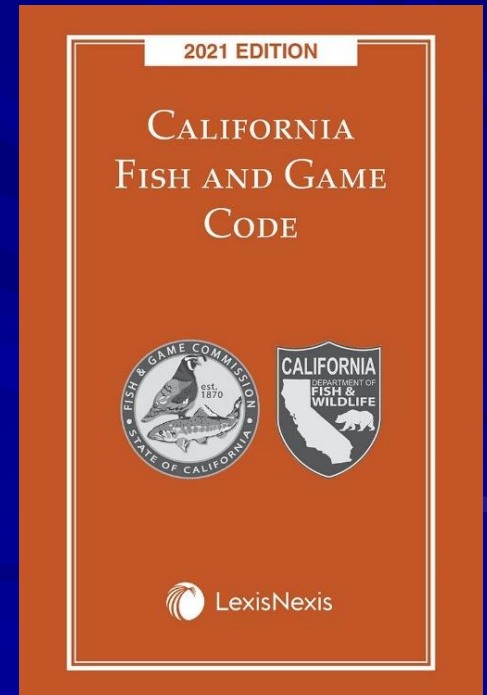
- 1907: Bountied Predator
- 1963: Nongame mammal
- 1969: Game mammal
- 1990: “Specially Protected Species”
- 2020: Listed as a Candidate Species for Threatened or Endangered Status in the ESU which includes the Bay Area





# Fish and Game Code 4800

- Specially protected/Candidate Species means it is unlawful to take, injure, possess, transport, import, or sell any mountain lion or part of a mountain lion
  - Mountain lions may be killed only
    - If a depredation permit is issued
    - To preserve public safety
    - To protect listed bighorn sheep



If there is no hunting and no other management done by CDFW what is limiting the mountain lion population?



Road kill  
Territorial disputes  
Infanticide  
Habitat/Prey  
availability  
Disease  
Depredation Permits  
Illegal Hunting

# Department Bulletin 2013-02

- Human/mountain lion interactions are categorized into one of four areas:

1. Sightings

- *mountain lion is seen by the public and is not displaying unusual behavior*

2. Depredation

- *mountain lion immediately threatening to cause damage, in the act of causing damage, or has caused damage to private property*

3. Potential human conflict

- *mountain lion found in an unusual location and/or is demonstrating unusual behavior*

4. Public safety

- *mountain lion demonstrating aggressive action that has resulted in physical contact with a human*



# Policy

## ■ Potential Human Conflict:

- A mountain lion that is found in a usual location and/or is demonstrating unusual behavior that could reasonable be perceived as having potential to cause severe injury or death to humans.

## ■ Outcomes for these lions:

- Relocation
- Placement
- Rehabilitation
- May become a Public Safety Lion and will be humanely killed





# Summary of Attacks in California

## ■ Mountain Lion Attacks on humans

- Total of 18 attacks documented in 35 years
- **3 deaths in 35 years**

## ■ For comparison

- Domestic Dog Attacks
  - **30 deaths in 15 years (1979-1994)**
- Struck by Lightning
  - 72 injuries in 35 years
  - **14 deaths in 35 years**

# What to Do if you Encounter a Mountain Lion

## ■ STOP – DO NOT RUN

- Maintain eye contact
- Stand tall
- Look bigger by opening your coat or raising your arms
- Slowly wave your arms and speak firmly
- Throw rocks or other objects, use pepper spray
- Pick up small children

- In the rare event of an attack, fight back. Most people succeed in driving the mountain lion away.

# What to Do

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Hike, bike, or jog in groups when possible
- Avoid hiking or jogging when mountain lions are most active – dawn, dusk and at night
- Keep a close watch on small children
- Do not approach a mountain lion (no selfies)





# What to Do

- Prevent mountain lion prey from entering neighborhoods by:
  - Not feeding deer; it is illegal in California.
  - Deer-proof your landscaping by avoiding plants that deer like to eat.
  - Bring pets and pet food inside.
  - Put garbage in tightly closed containers that cannot be tipped over.
  - Remove sources of water, especially in dry climates.
  - Pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles.
  - Ask your neighbors to follow these tips.

# What to Do

- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Trim brush to reduce hiding places for mountain lions.
- Provide sturdy, covered shelters for sheep, goats, rabbits, poultry and other vulnerable animals.
- Don't allow pets outside or provide fully secured areas or kennels for outdoor cats and dogs.



# Assume the Risk

- If you choose to have an indoor/outdoor pet and/or livestock and live in mountain lion habitat it may be preyed upon

*And, much of San Bruno is within mountain lion habitat*



# References

*Outdoor California, Special Mountain Lion Issue, Volume 57 No. 3.*

*California Department of Fish and Wildlife website at [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)*

*Shaw, Harley G., Paul Breier, Melanie Culver, and Melissa Grigione. Puma Field Guide: A guide covering the Biological Considerations, General Life History, Identification, Assessment, and Management of Puma concolor. The Cougar Network. 2007.*

*Mountain Lion Foundation website at [www.mountainlion.org](http://www.mountainlion.org)*

*UCSC Puma Project 2014 Annual Report. CDFW files.*

*<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00047723.htm>*

*<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/>*

*Most of the photos used here were from wikipedia.org and clipart*



# WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO REPORT



# What To Do?

Report Online Hyperlink: <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/wir/>

What?	Meaning / Definition	Report
Sightings	Animal is seen by the public and is <u>not</u> displaying unusual behavior.	<u>If in or adjacent to suitable habitat no need to report</u>
Depredation	Loss of property, typically goats and sheep.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Report <a href="#">online</a></li><li>✓ Call CDFW Regional Office at (707) 428-2002</li></ul>
Potential Human Conflict	Unusual location and/or demonstrating unusual behavior.	<p>If <u>not</u> a threat: (i.e.. spotted on security camera in middle of night or seen during daylight)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Report <a href="#">online</a></li><li>✓ Call CDFW Regional Office at (707) 428-2002</li></ul> <p>If immediate threat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Call <b>9-1-1</b></li></ul>
Public Safety	Mountain lion had physical contact with a human.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Call <b>9-1-1</b></li></ul>





# How to Report

- ▲ Report Any Unusual Human/Predator or Predator/Prey Interactions to CDFW
  - Create an account and log sightings on the CDFW Wildlife Incident Reporting Database
    - <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/wir/>
- ▲ No Need to Report Unconfirmed Sightings
- ▲ If You are in Immediate Danger Call **9-1-1**

# Q & A





# Stay Connected – Sign Up for SMC Alert



[www.sanbruno.ca.gov/ContactUs](http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/ContactUs)



A photograph of a mountain lion walking through tall green grass. The lion is in the foreground, looking towards the camera. Its body is slightly out of focus, but its face is clear. The background is a soft-focus green field.

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR  
MOUNTAIN LION SAFETY  
COMMUNITY MEETING**